


CITIES OF INDIA

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L.S. SESHAGIRI RAO





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ABOUT THE SERIES

Our series CITIES OF INDIA is not meant to be a demographic account, nor a geographic description of the place. This is neither a comprehensive study of the city, nor an exhaustive report, nor a complete guidebook. Yet, the effort is to tell as much about a city as to make a casual traveller not lost in an alien place. It is also possible that the very residents of the city — some for generations — may discover something new or fascinating that they had been unaware of so far. Should any of these objectives be achieved even in a moderate way, we would consider our efforts amply rewarded.

BANGALORE

‘The Garden City’, ‘the Air-Conditioned City’—in such terms has the city of Bangalore been described—and justly so. The lustre of the city has somewhat dimmed in recent decades, because of the pressures of growth. It is the fastest-growing city in India; its accessibility, the facilities it commands, its pleasant climate and the friendly nature of the people have drawn thousands of people, and the city has not been able to find solutions to problems as fast as they arise. And yet, even today, Bangalore remains a lovely city. In this home of the Lal Bagh and ancient temples and old structures, and the Indian Institute of Science and ISRO and the Indian Institute of Management, yesterday shakes hands with today; here the electronic capital of India, tomorrow beckons promisingly.

KARNATAKA

Bangalore is the capital of Karnataka State in South India. Karnataka is the only State in India where gold is found. It is the land of silk and sandal, of coffee and cardamom, of the 57-foot statue of the Jain saint Gomateshwara and of the enchanting sculptural wealth of Belur and Halebid, of the historical ruins of Hampe and monuments of Bijapur; it is the land that gave India the engineer-statesman Sir M. Visvesvaraya and the great generals, General Cariappa and General Thimmaiah.

Karnataka extends north-south about 770 km and east-west about 400 km. It has a total area of 1,91,791 sq.km. It has a population of 4,49,77,201 (1991 census). The land probably came to be called Karnatāka because of its black soil or because of its loveliness. The majority of the people speak Kannada, a Dravidian language.

Karnataka, as it is now seen in the map of India, was formed on the 1st of November 1956. The erstwhile State of Mysore occupied about half of the new

State; Mysore State, the Part C state of Kodagu (Coorg), and areas from the former state of Hyderabad and the former Bombay and Madras provinces came together to form the new State on the 1st of November 1956 (the State was then called Mysore State).

CHANGING TIMES

Banaglore is both a lovely and lively city. It is situated at a height of nine hundred metres above sea level. The climate is pleasant throughout the year. In summer occasionally the mercury touches 37°C but hovers between 30 and 35°C ; and on the coldest day in winter, the mercury may dip to 15°C . The rains come to Bangalore around the 15th of June and taper off in the middle of October. November to the end of April is the ideal time to visit the city.

The city has an area of 2,191 sq.km. The salubrious climate and the hospitable people of Bangalore once drew hosts of settlers, when the city was even more pleasant. The names of roads indicate even today the nature of the different

parts of the city—Avenue Road, Margosa Road, Coconut Avenue Road, Sampige (Chamapaka) Road. At the heart of the city was the imposing Dharmambudhi Tank (the city bus station, named after Subash Chandra Bose, now occupies this site); there were a number of other tanks, big and small, like the Kempambudhi Tank, the Sankey Tank and the Ulsoor Tank. Most of them have now disappeared, making way for man's dwellings. A few of these gifts of wiser days, like the Sankey Tank and the Ulsoor Tank, have survived man's greed for land. Bangalore was the home of beauty, blessed by nature, and was developed with taste and thought. The erstwhile Mysore State was fortunate in its maharajas and dewans (chief ministers). They nurtured the city lovingly. In recent decades (particularly after Bangalore became the capital of the new State of Karnataka) the city has grown very rapidly; the following figures of the population over the years will give some idea of the demands made by the swelling population : 1901:1, 59, 046; 1911:1, 89, 485; 1941: 4,06,760; 1951: 7,78,977; 1961:11,99,931; 1971: 16,53,779; 1981:25,62,089; 1991:41,30,288. The

increase in population is due partly to the absorption of adjoining villages in the city.

There have been some compensations, though. The far-famed Vidhana Soudha was completed just before the birth of the new State; today it is impossible to imagine Bangalore without the Vidhana Soudha. Bangalore is now more accessible ; board and lodging facilities have improved; medical assistance and educational opportunities can compare with the best in India. Also, steps have been taken to ease the pressure on the city. Some 16 km from the city, a satellite town has come up in Kengeri (on the Bangalore-Mysore road); and Yelahanka, on the border of the city, is fast developing into an industrial centre.

Despite its growth, Bangalore is a lovely city. It is still the city of flowers. Roses, jasmine and other flowers of the city are exported, and an ambitious project is on the anvil to broadbase the export further. Visit any of the markets in the city — big or small — and a colourful array of flowers and their delightful fragrance welcomes you. A number of gardens

have sprung up around new public-sector undertakings and private buildings; and there are many being maintained in different parts of the city by various institutions. And, of course, there is the Queen of Gardens, the Lal Bagh, even richer than it was half a century ago.

BANGALORE — THE HISTORY

The city was, in all probability, founded by Kempe Gowda (1513-1569), a feudatory prince who owed allegiance to the rulers of the Vijayanagar Empire. The Vijayanagar Empire, mention of which brings proud memories to Kannadigas (those who speak the Kannada language), was founded in 1336, and flourished until 1565. Foreign visitors to the Empire have given ecstatic accounts of the glory of this Empire, and the greatness of rulers like Krishnadevaraya. Kempe Gowda has come to be known as Bengalooru Kempe Gowda (Bangalore is the anglicized form of the name); his statue stands opposite the imposing building which houses the offices of the City Corporation, presiding over an endless traffic of roaring vehicles, a far cry, indeed, from the Bangalore of his

vision. The four towers in the four corners of the city — on the Vaiyali Kaval mound in the north, Ulsoor in the east, Lal Bagh in the south, and Kempe Gowda Nagar in the west — are said to have been set up by him to mark the extent of the expansion of the city in the years to come. Today the city has expanded far beyond these boundaries.

The origin of the name ‘Bengalooru’, is not known for certain. There is a popular explanation, that before the city was founded, a prince, possibly Kempe Gowda, was separated from his retinue in the course of a hunting adventure. Tired, hungry and thirsty, he wandered far and wide but did not see a human being. But when he came to the area where Bangalore stands now, he saw a poor old woman and appealed for help. She was too poor to offer him anything else, but shared the boiled gram (*benda kalu* in Kannada) she had. Soon the followers of the prince came in search of their master. The prince was grateful to the old woman and called this town ‘Benda Kaalooru’ (‘ooru’ in Kannada means ‘town’); in course of time the name assumed its present form

‘Bengalooru’. But this is a fanciful explanation which visitors to Bangalore are likely to hear.

Relics of human habitation in pre-historic times have been found in parts of the city. Relics of the neolithic man have been found near the Race Course and the Hindustan Aeronautics area. Roman coins of the time of Emperor Caligula (A. D. 12-41) have been found in Yashwanthapura. Some extant evidence suggests that Bangalore was inhabited as long ago as 4000 B.C.

In historic times it has been ruled by several royal dynasties like the Gangas. In 1687 Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar, ruler of Mysore, bought the town for the then very huge amount of three lakh rupees. The city gained prominence during the regime of Hyder Ali and his son, Tippu Sultan (eighteenth century). During the century and a half which followed, the rulers of Mysore State lavished affection and care on the city; and, although officially Mysore was the capital of the State and the Maharaja lived there, Bangalore got all the attention it could have asked for. Those in charge of the administration combined the will to

develop the city with an aesthetic sense, and Bangalore, blessed by nature and nurtured by man, became the City Beautiful. A part of the city, that is, the Cantonment, was under the British, and when India became free, the Cantonment area was handed over to the State.

In the 1930's, Mirza Ismail, the Dewan (or Chief Minister) could be seen on many mornings on horseback, accompanied by officers, paying surprise visits to different parts of the city, listening to the grievances of people, and ensuring that no building, not even a private one, offended the aesthetic sense.

For nearly a century Kannadigas had been demanding that they should all be brought under a single administration. The demand gained momentum from the second decade of the twentieth century, and in 1956 it was conceded.

When the new State appeared on the map, Bangalore became the capital. It could satisfy all the criteria for a State capital, like accessibility and a well-developed infrastructure; most important of all, it has a magnificent edifice to house the secretariat and ready facilities for the State legislature to function.

Its growth in the last forty years has been phenomenal.

THE CITY CORPORATION

The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (Bangalore City Corporation) is the biggest of all City Corporations in the State and has 87 members, one member to represent each ward. It is autonomous and its affairs are guided by a Mahapoura (Mayor) and a Upamahapoura (Deputy Mayor). Such responsibilities as sanitation and maintenance of roads are entrusted to it; it also runs schools and hospitals and markets and a variety of other institutions, and plays a very important role in the life of the capital. Its city offices are housed in two buildings on the Narasimharaja Road (N R Road); the older building, constructed about sixty years ago, is a two-storeyed stone structure, with a prominent tower and four types of domes. (It then cost one-and-a-half lakh rupees.) A new addition is the City Council Hall. The central courtyard is a beauty. The dome comprises 32 RCC precast ribs, and rises to a height of 17.40 metres. The Council Hall is an amphitheatrel like structure. The entire building is well designed, with

particular attention paid to the green surroundings and the complex of buildings, of which it forms a part.

THE PEOPLE

Kannadigas are known for their hospitality and friendly and cultured attitude towards visitors. Bangalore is a cosmopolitan city and an industrial centre. Verily, thousands of visitors, from other parts of the State as well as the country and from abroad, pour into the city every day; aeroplanes, trains, buses and cars bring visitors of all classes and from all walks of life. Bangalore is one of the most peaceful and hospitable of our cities.

As in most of the cities of India, the population here is predominantly Hindu. Followers of Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Veera Shaivism form the majority. But all faiths are represented here, and by and large people live in amity and co-operation. Muslims and Christians are in considerable numbers, while Jainism has struck deep roots in Karnataka; the earliest poet whose works are extant in Kannada is Pampa (generally referred

to as the Adi Kavi — the First Poet) and he was a Jain. Jains form a sizeable section of the population, and have become prominent in the business sector. There are Buddhists and Parsees in Bangalore. The city is dotted with places of worship sacred to members of different religions; religious tolerance is in the very blood of the Kannadigas, and so conflicts between followers of the different faiths are rare. The great king Vishnuvardhana was a Srivaishnava, and his wife, the celebrated Shantala, a Jain.

The following prayer is inscribed in Belur: it belongs to the period of the Vijayanagara Empire :

“He whom the Shaivas worship as
Shiva,

The Vedantins as Brahma,

The Naiyayikas well-versed in logic,
as Kartha,

The Jains as Arha,

The Meemamasakaras as Karma,
May that Keshava grant our prayers.”

Karaga is a unique festival organized by the Thigala community; it is in honour of Draupadi, the Fire-born; it

starts from the Dharmaraya Temple and receives worship at the Mastan Darga.

The people of Karnataka are accommodating, often, to a fault. Thanks to this quality, Bangalore City has developed into one of the most important industrial centres in the country. Labour and management have generally co-existed well here, and this is one reason why industrialists from different parts of India seek a foothold here. Violence is a rare phenomenon, for the people are peace-loving.

The proliferation of important offices, the concentration of industries, and the influx of immigrants have changed the ways and habits of the people of Bangalore considerably in the last half century. People are less conservative than before. This is seen in their clothes, in their readiness to eat out often, and in the mingling of people of different faiths, speaking different languages. Half a century ago, there were very few luxury hotels; and the more orthodox among the middle-class who formed the bulk of the population seldom visited hotels. They followed the calendars of their respective religions more strictly. And,

while the ubiquitous European suit boasted many adherents (particularly the official class), it generally went with the Mysore turban (as often with lace as without), which was considered a symbol of Mysore culture. Women loved the Mysore silk, the Molakalmuru, Dharwad and Ilakal sarees, and the rich profusion of sarees produced in different centres in Karnataka. Sarees came from distant places like Kanchi and Varanasi. Today men have more or less discarded the western suit and prefer safari suits, trousers and slacks. There is a fair sprinkling of women in *salwar* and *kameez*. Both men's and women's apparel has gained in colour and gaiety. People are now willing to go out more often, eat out more often and to travel more. The Mysore turban, once so happily sported, has all but disappeared. While aesthetics still presides over men's and women's wear as before, their dress has become more informal, more colourful.

Walk down any busy road in Bangalore — you will hear a number of languages of India; of course, Kannada, the language of the State, is heard everywhere, and that is as it should be. Kannada has borrowed unhesitatingly

from English; some Hindi and Urdu words have become part of the treasures of Kannada vocabulary. It is not unusual to hear an educated man weave English words and phrases into his Kannada. While Hindi is spoken by those who have come from North India, Tamil and Telugu are spoken by a considerable number of people; so is Urdu. A number of people are bilingual; a fairly-well-educated Kannadiga knows his own language, Kannada and English. Most people know three languages; it is not unusual for a person whose mother tongue is not Kannada, to have mastered, in addition to his own language, three other languages — Kannada, English and Hindi. Moreover, a Kannadiga is quite willing to talk to a visitor who does not know Kannada, in any language with which both of them are familiar. Visitors to Bangalore, therefore, have practically no communication problem.

THE CLIMATE

As has already been said, few places in India are so blessed in the matter of climate as Bangalore. Situated on the Deccan Plateau at a height of nine

hundred metres above sea level it enjoys a salubrious climate. The latter half of March and the months of April, May and June are considered the hottest months; even then the mercury hovers between 30°C and 37°C. On most days the maximum is around 35°C, with the temperature coming down to around 27°C at night. The rains set in in June, generally in the second week, and taper off towards the end of October. During this period the maximum is about 30°C and the minimum about 20°C. It begins to get cold in November; December and January are the coldest months, the maximum temperature being around 22° and the minimum about 15°. Bangalore has been called the Air-conditioned City, because of a peculiar phenomenon. If three or four successive days are very hot, it rains, and the temperature comes down. (Of course, the tarred roads, the felling of trees and the concrete monsters which multiply every year, have been successfully thwarting nature.) The best months to visit are from November to April; but the visitor to Bangalore in January can feast his eyes on the Republic Day Flower Show at the Lal Bagh. In November,

December and January one is likely to need warm clothing.

Incidentally, Bangalore is the city for fruits and flowers. From here flowers are air-lifted to Delhi and other centres. The Government is planning the direct air-lift of flowers and fruits not only to other parts of India but to other countries like Holland as well — such is the bounty of Nature here.

THE CULTURE OF THE LAND

A glance at some facts of the history of Karnataka may help us understand the culture of the people. Mayura Varma founded, more than sixteen centuries ago, the first royal family to rule in Karnataka; as a youth he went to Kanchipuram for education; he was insulted by the soldiers of the Pallava rulers. He returned to Karnataka, raised an army, defeated the Pallava rulers, and compelled them to acknowledge him as an independent ruler.

Karnataka has given India the first two Commanders-in-Chief of free India, General Cariappa and General Thimmaiah. Channamma, the queen of

a small principality in Karnataka, defeated an English army on October 22, 1824, three decades before Rani Jhansi, justly celebrated for her valour, had to face the same British assault. The Salt Satyagraha in Ankola was one of the most thrilling chapters in the annals of that agitation. The tallest statue in the State is that of Gomateshwara (or Bahubali), the great Jain saint, who gave up the crown and renounced earthly pleasures in the hour of supreme victory; the statue is 57 feet high, and stands on a hillock in Sravanabelagola (in Hassan District). The cave temples of Badami, the sculptures in Belur and Halebid, and the Gol Gumbuz in Bijapur are among the marvels of art in this country. The Jnanapith Award has travelled more often to Karnataka than to any other part of the country; six men of letters from Karnataka have received this high honour.

True, the facts listed here indicate the summits of excellence that Kannadigas have achieved, but, as Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan once said, 'A candle burns at the top'. The people of Karnataka form the base from which these summits rise.

The pages of history bear testimony to the courage and the martial valour of Kannadigas. A historical record says of Govinda III (793-814), a ruler of Karnataka, that his horses drank the icy waters bubbling at the foot of the Himlayas. The ruins of the Vijayanagar Empire, which lie in Hampi, remind the visitor of the glory of rulers like Krishnadevaraya and Devaraya II.

The people are mild and friendly and helpful. Their values are reflected in the words of praise they generally bestow on a man they respect : 'nambikastha' and 'dodda manushya'. The first expression means 'a reliable man', 'a trustworthy man'; the second, 'a noble man, 'one who does nothing unworthy'. The fine arts have flourished here. Some of the greatest musicians that India has seen in recent decades (not to speak of the more distant eras) belong to Karnataka — Veena Seshanna, Violin Chowdaiah, the composer Vasudevacharya, Bidaram Krishnappa, Gangubai Hangal, Bhimsen Joshi, Mallikarjuna Mansoor, Veena Doraiswamy Iyengar and R. K. Srikantan. The great painters, Krishna Hebbar and V. K.

Venkatappa, belong to Karnataka, and so does the renowned cartoonist, R.K. Laxman. Personalities like Sriranga, Girish Karnad, B. V. Karanth and Chandrasekhara Kambar have enriched both the Indian theatre and the Indian cinema. The Brindavan (14 km from Mysore) and the Lal Bagh (Botanical Gardens) bear testimony to the Kannadigas' love of beauty. Any number of examples can be listed to show that the creative spirit has rejoiced in Karnataka across the centuries. And any festivity brings out the people's love of beauty and colour, their refined taste in clothes and decorations. The costumes of Yakshagana players (Yakshagana is a folk drama), dazzling and colourful, with a conspicuous and impressive headgear, speak for the native love of colour blended with an aesthetic sense which does not allow colours to run riot.

The Kannadiga is neither flamboyant nor voluble; he is reticent, a little shy, and keen to avoid unpleasantness and conflict. As has already been said, labour-management relations show little conflict and no violence. There have been no revolutions in Karnataka; a

memorable revolution which took place in the twelfth century, that of the Shivasharanas, was religious and cultural, and proclaimed the equality of all men, irrespective of their birth and profession. Society has not been stagnant; it has produced its own reformers, and has also responded to the impact of Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Gandhiji, Vivekananda and Ambedkar. But changes have come about gradually.

The Kannadiga's dishes are delectable. Indeed, as Sri H. Y. Sharada Prasad points out (in the book *Karnataka* which he has jointly authored with two others), the word 'nidhanastha' is a word of praise often on the lips of a Kannadiga. It means one who is patient, one who pauses and ponders, one who weighs the pros and cons before speaking or acting, in short, a connoisseur. It is only in recent years that there has been a demand for accelerating the pace of change.

By and large, the Kannadiga is not blessed with a strong sense of humour. This is not to suggest that he is totally devoid of a sense of humour. He loves fun and laughter. Karnataka has

produced such masters of humour as T.P. Kailasam and R. Shivaram; but there have not been as many masters of humour as there have been of satire. Dr. Shivaram tried to give Kannada readers a monthly packet of humour, and started and edited the delightful monthly, *Koravanji*, which barely managed to see the twenty-fifth year.

FESTIVALS

Bangalore celebrates the national festivals, the Independence Day and the Republic Day, as well as Gandhiji's birthday. In recent times the birthday of Dr. Ambedkar is being celebrated in different parts of the city by different organizations, stretching over days. Apart from these, Bangalore is witness to a number of festivals because of its multi-religious population. Fortunately, these festivals generate no conflicts and are celebrated with dignity and in peace.

Independence Day and Republic Day are days of gaiety particularly for the young ones. Dressed colourfully, children with eyes sparkling and bubbling with enthusiasm, make their way to their schools, and the lively movements of

groups of these cheerful children brighten the streets. Flags flutter over buildings, and there are programmes of many types — from serious, thought-provoking speeches to song and dance — all over the city. In contrast, Gandhiji's birthday and Dr. Ambedkar's birthday are solemn. Dignitaries offer garlands to the statues of the colossal leaders.

As has already been said, Bangalore is the home of the followers of many faiths and of sects and subjects within a faith. It is a city of temples, mosques and churches and other places of worship. Followers of different faiths celebrate festivals or observe special days in different months and on different days. The result is that almost every other day some festival or the other seems to brighten Bangalore.

It hardly needs emphasising that each sect and each sub-sect has its festivals, some of which call forth greater enthusiasm and devotional response than others. Some festivals are common to more than one faith.

Yugadi (which falls usually in the second half of March or in early April)

is the Kannadiga New Year's Day; it greets people in early spring, when trees have put on new leaves, and all Nature is rich in flowers and fruits, and the breeze is laden with sweet fragrance. This is a festival celebrated with devotion and delight. It is a practice to begin the festival dinner with a mixture of jaggery and neem leaves — symbolic of the joys and sorrows interwoven in life and the need to accept both with equanimity. Makara Sankramana (which usually falls on the 14th or 15th of January), Sri Ramanavami, Sri Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesha Chaturthi, Dasara and Deepavali are other festivals which stimulate devotion combined with excitement. Special worship is offered at homes and in temples. The joy of the festival manifests itself in the new and colourful clothes bought for the occasion. Makara Sankramana (Sankranthi), which, incidentally, is considered more a religious observance than a festival, and Dasara are particularly occasions for people to visit relatives and friends. Not only do they bring the joy of meeting dear ones but also serve to introduce to the family circle infants and daughters-in-law

just come into the fold of the family. Despite the sophistication in society the practice of visiting relatives on Vijayadashami day (the last day of Dasara) and seeking the blessings of elders and receiving 'banni' leaves from them still prevails. The Dasara is Karnataka's pride. The ruler of the Vijayanagara Empire (fond memories of this Empire are part of the cultural heritage of Kannadigas) used to celebrate Dasara with eclat. In more recent times, the rulers of Mysore continued the tradition. The Maharaja held 'durbars' on nine days, and on the tenth day (that is, Vijayadashami) went in a procession on a caparisoned elephant. It was a spectacle of rare splendour, and drew lakhs of visitors to Mysore. With the ending of the rule of the royal family, there has been a change in the celebrations organized by the State government. A picture of Bhuvareshwari, the patron goddess of Karnataka, is taken out in procession. Although the procession has lost something of its glamour and grandeur, it is still an attraction. So, all over Karnataka, Dasara has acquired joyous associations. The ninth day of Dasara is also a special occasion; it is 'Mahanavami'

— the day when man remembers with gratitude the implements and vehicles that have brought him ease and prosperity; tools and vehicles are decorated and receive worship. This is a special occasion for industrial houses and labourers. It is a unique and significant festival of Hindus. As in other parts of the country, Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, is a joyous occasion. Gods and goddesses are taken out in procession. Ganesha festival and Krishna Janmashtami are welcomed alike by elders and children. In Karnataka, Yugadi and Sri Ramanavami have an added dimension to them. They are not one-day affairs. A number of organizations provide opportunities to listen to the music of a wide range of musicians — from maestros to highly promising talents. The festivals brighten the early spring, when the opportunity of listening to music in the open is particularly welcome. Concerts organized in different parts of the city draw considerable numbers of ‘rasikas’ — the cognoscenti. Specially on Ramanavami and the days following it, the experience of the concert by moonlight is truly enchanting.

‘Karaga’ is a unique festival. It is celebrated in a few other towns in the States, too, but the celebration in Bangalore has a special glamour. It is celebrated on the full-moon day in Chaitra, the first month of the Hindu calendar (It may be mentioned here that the lunar calendar is generally followed, while some families, particularly those who come from Dakshina Kannada, i.e., South Canara district, follow the solar calendar.) towards the end of March or in early April. It is a festival in honour of Draupadi, the fiery heroine of the *Mahabharata*, who suffered a hundred sorrows and a hundred wrongs such as no other woman has known. She is said to have assumed a form such as would strike terror in the beholder, in order to overcome a demon who tried to harass her. A community known as Vahnikula Kshatriyas (or, Thigalas) is in charge of the celebrations. The celebrations start at the Dharmaraya temple in the heart of the city and the procession returns to the temple. The celebrations start at about ten in the night. A male priest chosen for the honour and who has observed certain austerities

carries a beautifully decorated brass pitcher on his head, and walks and trots and runs, without supporting the pitcher. He wears a woman's dress and is decorated with flowers and jewellery. 'Adishakthi' is believed to take possession of him. Young men carrying unsheathed swords lead the procession and act as his bodyguards. A chariot carrying the idols of Draupadi and Arjuna is part of the procession. The procession receives worship at the Mastan Sab Darga in Cottonpet. The loud repetition of the names of God by the frenzied youths, and the sounds of pipes fill the air. The procession returns to the temple at daybreak. The event brings thousands of people from the adjoining towns and villages to the city, and huge crowds throng the route of the procession. The next morning a number of deities are taken out in procession. Karaga is one of the most spectacular events of Bangalore.

Celebrations and observances of the Muslims follow the pattern in the rest of the country. The emphasis here is on congregational prayers. There are a

number of masjids in Bangalore, and on days holy to Muslims, the streets are crowded with the faithful, brightly dressed, going to or returning from prayers. The birthday of Prophet Mohammed is naturally a very important day. Bakrid, dedicated to the peerless devotee Ibrahim, who was prepared to sacrifice to God his own son, without flinching for a moment, is another important day for reverential homage. Important Christian festivals are New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day. Here, too, the accent is on congregational worship.

Buddha Poornima is celebrated in different parts of the city, but the celebrations organized by the Mahabodhi Society are organized at different centres like hospitals and prisons on the first six days. On the seventh day, which is Buddha Poornima, the celebrations reach a climax with a seminar and prayers at the Mahabodhi Society. A noteworthy feature of the celebrations is that a number of non-Buddhists are invited to speak at different centres and also to the seminar at

the Society. Fruits are distributed to patients in hospitals and aid is given to the physically handicapped. There is a sizeable Jain community in Bangalore and there are a number of Jain temples. The one in Jayanagar is quite impressive. Mahaveera Jayanthi is celebrated by the community with devotion, and the celebrations are particularly characterized by acts of charity. The month of Karthik, which is also the month of the Deepavali festival, is sacred to the Jains, and lamps are lit outside their houses. The number of Sikhs is not inconsiderable. There is a Gurudwara in Bangalore. Guru Nanak's birthday draws the Sikhs to the Gurudwara and is celebrated with devotion. The Bengalis living in Bangalore come together to celebrate Durga Pooja and invite a number of guests.

While Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhiji's birthday are national festivals, Rajyotsava Day celebrated on 1st November every year, is a State festival. For centuries Kannadigas had been scattered in different parts of South India. The dream of Kannadigas

for a separate state was realized, thus bringing a new State to the map of South India. This was the day when (in 1956) the present State of Karnataka appeared on the map of India. (It was then called Mysore.) From 1917 at any rate, the Kannadigas had been dreaming of a united Karnataka. On the first of November every year, citizens who have made a significant contribution in various walks of life are honoured with the Rajyotsava Award. The day is celebrated by district and other administrative units and by other organizations all over the State. Rejoicing and introspection go hand in hand in these celebrations. November is the Rajyotsava month, and all over the State celebrations continue.

Children's Day (the 14th of November) is another day when Bangalore wears a festive look, and the glowing faces of little ones brighten every part of the city. The State government organizes the celebrations, which include a spectacular show by children in the city in the morning and a number of cultural programmes presented by children.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO VISITORS

Bangalore is a city where yesterday shakes hands with today, and today prepares for tomorrow. Temples and other structures which are centuries old, and traditions which have come down through centuries, have survived here. It is the seat of the State administration. A number of offices of the Central Government, like the office of the Accountant General, the Post-Master General of Karnataka, the Border Security Force, the Central Bureau of Investigation, Central Excise and Customs, the Coffee Board, the Controller of Defence Accounts, the Food Corporation of India, Income Tax Department offices, National Council of Education and Research, the Railway Recruitment Board, and Tobacco Board are located here. Southern Railway has a number of offices here. There is an Air Force Centre at Jalahalli. All India Radio and Doordarshan have centres in Bangalore. Bangalore is crowded — in fact, overcrowded — with industries in the public sector; Hindustan Aeronautics, the Indian Telephone Industries, Bharat Electronics, Bharat Earthmovers,

Hindustan Machine Tools — any number of public sector undertakings — are located here. And then there are industries in the private sector. Giants in the public sector and the private sector outside the State have their branch offices in Bangalore. There is a Bangalore branch of the Reserve Bank of India. Several nationalized banks and other commercial banks have flocked to Bangalore, which is the electronic capital of India. It is accessible through road and rail and airways. So the city caters to visitors of all types and tastes and means.

One of the main attractions of Bangalore is the stately Vidhana Soudha; it is one of the most magnificent seats of government in the country. One of the largest secretariat-cum-legislature buildings in India, it is located in the Cubbon Park, opposite the Athara Katcheri. The expression 'Athara Katcheri' literally means 'Eighteen Offices'; in olden days, eighteen departments of the government were located in this mansion, and hence the name. Vidhana Soudha is an interesting and unusual structure; it is a blend of Dravidian and other Indian

architectural styles. The temple craft of Karnataka is conspicuous here. It is a stone structure, built almost entirely of Bangalore granite. The two houses of the State Legislature meet in this building; there is a broad flight of steps, leading to the Legislature Secretariat and the vast halls where the Houses meet. The Soudha is a four-storeyed building, with a total floor area of 5,50,505 sq. ft. The topmost floor has a floor area of 1,01,165 sq. ft, and the other two 1,32,400 sq. ft each. The Chief Minister's office and the offices of most ministers are on the third floor. The Cabinet Room, with a door of pure sandal, also is on the third floor. On the ground floor, there is a lovely Banquet Hall. The central dome, 150 feet high and with a diameter of 60 feet, is supported by 50 pillars. The Vidhana Soudha has been called a poem in stone, and richly deserves the metaphor. It took four years to build (1952-56). The garden around it is lovely. Karnataka owes this majestic structure to the vision and the tireless efforts of Sri K. Hanumanthaiah, who was the Chief Minister of Mysore State just before

the birth of the new State. Sri Hanumanthiah who conceived the Vidhana Soudha as 'a people's palace', told the Building Committee, "Sovereignty has shifted from the Palace to the Legislature, and it is important that the building should reflect this change and symbolize the dignity and the power of the people." He personally supervised the construction with rare dedication. The statue of this 'practical visionary' stands at one of the entrances. There are also statues of Dr. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and Devaraj Urs, a former Chief Minister of the State (during whose tenure the State came to be named 'Karnataka').

The Raj Bhavan, built more than a hundred and fifty years ago, was originally the residence of the British Resident. It was a one-floor building; another floor was added in 1967. It is situated in a beautiful garden. It does not seem to have followed any particular architectural style of the day; it has a stately porch, Tuscan pillars and pedimented bay-windows. It has been given a lime-and-mortar finish in cream-and-white.

The massive structure which houses the State High Court (also in Cubbon Park) is in the Greek-Roman style of architecture. The All India Radio building and the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies have followed European architectural styles.

But one building, apart from Vidhana Soudha, which the visitor ought not to miss is the Bangalore Palace. It is, curiously enough, virtually an English structure on Karnataka soil, having been modelled on Windsor Castle, with its battlemented parapets and fortified towers. Built in 1880, the palace has a built area of 45,000 sq. ft. and was the Bangalore residence of the Maharajas of Mysore State. It is a stone structure and has a medieval air about it. It once boasted a breathtaking garden.

Bangalore has quite a few centres of cultural activities. Ravindra Kalakshetra, on the Jayachamaraja Road, was built to commemorate the birth centenary of Rabindranath Tagore. It is well equipped for dance performances and for staging plays. The Chowdaiah Memorial, with a seating

capacity of nearly one thousand, is a unique attraction of Bangalore; it is shaped like a violin, and is a splendid tribute to the great violin maestro, T. Chowdaiah (1895-1967), who was regarded as a wizard with the violin. It is situated in Gayathri Devi Park Extension, which is part of Vaiyalikaval, and is probably the best-equipped centre for cultural programmes. Near the Ravindra Kalakshetra is the Town Hall, named after K.P. Puttanna Chetty, who gifted it to the city; it is a massive stone structure.

A unique cultural institution which the visitor ought not to miss is Shashwathi, located in the NMKRV College building in Jayanagar. The college offers a course in Women's Studies, and Shashwathi is of immense importance to the students who join the course, but is also of great interest to the common man and particularly to women. It has built up a veritable treasure-house of manuscripts, photographs and other interesting material connected with women writers, and has also formed a library of audio cassettes of these writers. Also, it has a rare

collection of articles which were in use till the other day in everyday life but which are fast disappearing in the face of the onslaught of modernity. The institution also makes a national award every year to the best book by a woman writer; it carries a cash award of twenty-five thousand rupees, and a bronze icon of Kamadhenu, the celestial cow which grants all prayers. The Award is named after Nanjanagudu Thirumalamba (1887-1982), one of the earliest women writers and women journalists of modern Karnataka.

A visit to the following centres of art would be rewarding. The Venkatappa Art Gallery, on the edge of Cubbon Park, is dedicated to the memory of K. Venkatappa (1886-1965), a disciple of Percy Brown and Abanindranath Tagore, and one of the finest painters and sculptures that India has produced in this century. A bust of the great masters in plaster of Paris, bas reliefs and paintings are on display here. His nature paintings took shape in concentration and tranquillity. The Gayana Samaj (established in 1905) on the Krishnarajendra Road (near the

Krishnarajendra City Market) has been a radiant part of the cultural life of Bangalore; the greatest masters of both styles of music — Karanataka and Hindustani — have been invited by this institution. All the State academies (except those of Tulu, Konkani and Kodava) are located in Bangalore, and there are a number of other cultural organizations which also organize cultural programmes. The Chitrakala Parishad has rare traditional and folk art paintings. The Ken School of Arts has produced artists who have won all-India fame.

There are a number of constructions which will delight the discriminating lover of architecture. The Vidhana Soudha, the Bangalore Palace, the Ravindra Kalakshetra and the Chowdaiah Memorial Hall have already been mentioned. The Mayo Hall, with its architraved and pedimented windows, key-stoned arches and Greek cornices, is a stately building worth a visit. Kumara Kripa, the State Guest House, is a stone building set in an enchanting garden. The old building of the State Bank of Mysore and the new building stand side by side on the Kempe Gowda

Road — two imposing constructions, in two entirely different styles. The General Post Office building is a smaller version of the Vidhana Soudha. The New Public Office building, on the circumference of the K.R. Circle, houses a number of government offices. Also on the circumference is the Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Technological Institute, a huge stone building, with the statue of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the great engineer-statesman, in front; the Institute was his gift to the State.

Sri T.P. Issar has given a vivid picture of the building which houses the far-famed Indian Institute of Science : “A two-storey imposing structure of local-grey granite, topped with a Mangalore-tiled sloping roof, the building is distinguished by many European-Classical features. A 160-feet high central tower, tapering in three levels, dominates the elevation, with details of pedimented niches, each with a mini-balustrated railing resting on brackets. Topped with a pinnacled pavilion, the tower is flanked by two small cupolas, each with a niche. The pedimented central portion is com-

posed of two grand columns, an Ionic-columned entrance — opening below a balustrated niche, both enclosed by a moulded arch crowned with a key-stone. Moulded arches provide the openings of the ground-floor loggia. The projecting blocks at the end of the two wings, as also the side-elevation, broadly echo the features of the central entrance, with the grand columns harmoniously suggested in the brickwork.”*

There are a number of other imposing buildings in different parts of the city; a few may be mentioned by way of examples. The K.R. City Market and the West End Hotel are in the early romantic-Gothic style; Central College, in the Gothic Style. Among modern buildings may be mentioned the Welcome Group Windsor Manor Sheraton Hotel in the High Grounds (constructed in 1982).

* *The City Beautiful — A Celebration of the Architectural Heritage and City - Aesthetics of Bangalore* (p. 78) published by the Bangalore Urban Art Commission, 1988.

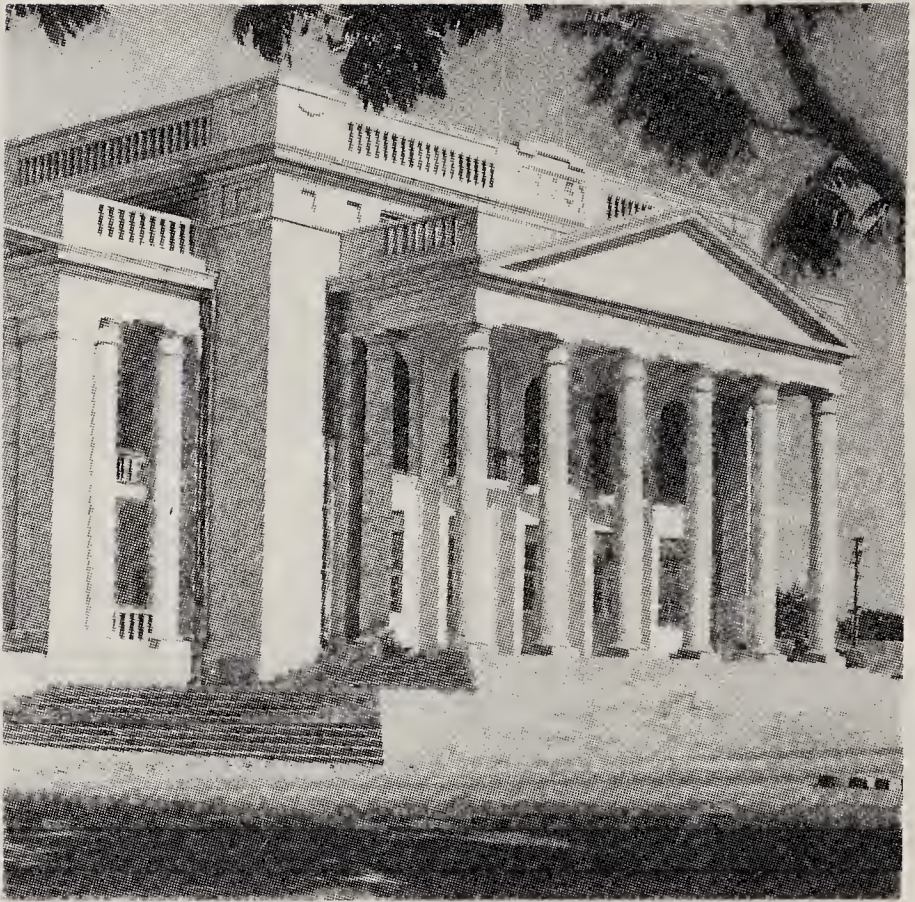
THE LAL BAGH AND THE CUBBON PARK

It has already been observed that Bangalore is known as the City of Gardens. In recent years the fast-increasing population and administrative apathy have taken their toll of gardens. But yet, there are fascinating gardens, chief among them, the Lal Bagh and the Cubbon Park.

The Lal Bagh is among the finest gardens in the country. This botanical garden offers rich material to the specialist and gladdens the heart of the ordinary visitor. It was planned by Hyder Ali (1760) and has been extended and lovingly enriched by a number of administrators. Horticulture has excelled itself in this enchanting garden. Apart from a wide variety of plants from all corners of India, Lal Bagh has been enriched by the addition of plants from different lands. As far back as in 1797, Tippu Sultan, who succeeded Hyder Ali, secured plants from France. His ambassadors knew that the master would be pleased if they offered him exotic plants, and so distant lands like



Statue of Kempe Gowda



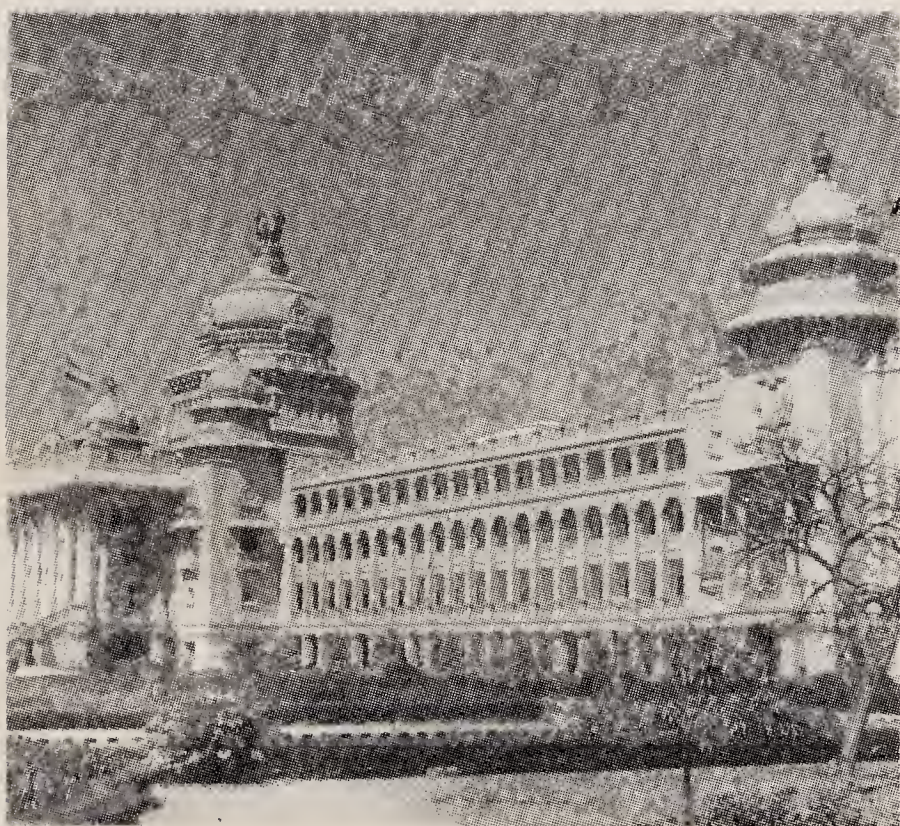
Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty Town Hall



Public Library, Cubbon Park



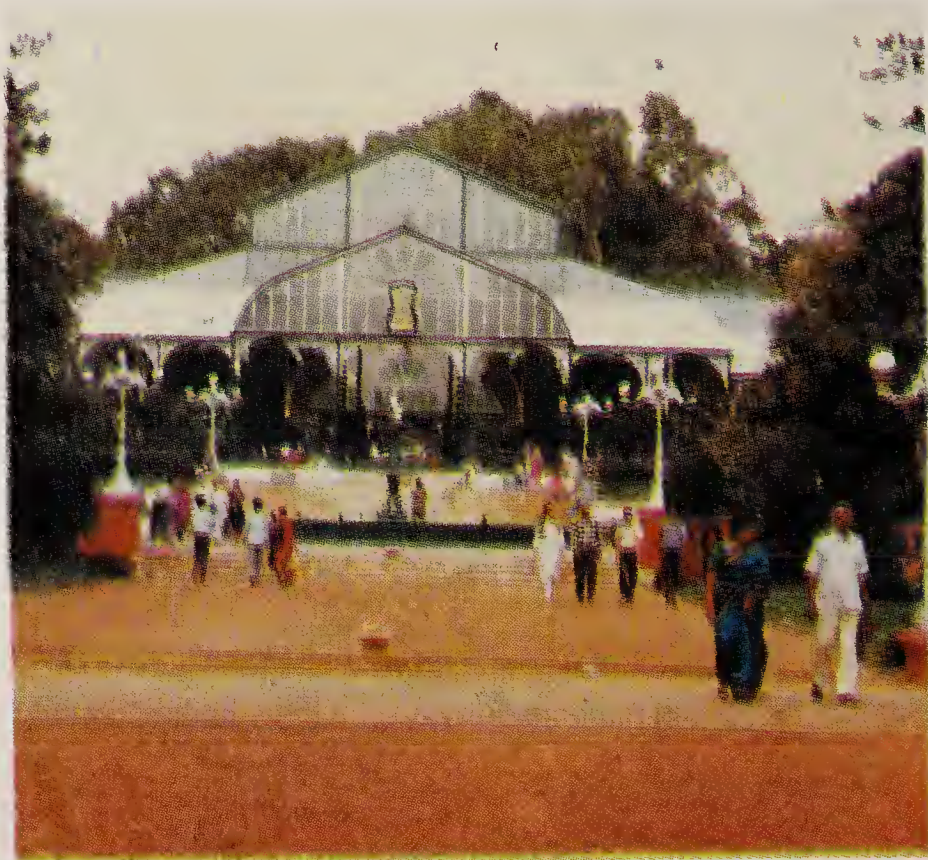
Indian Institute of Science



Vidhana Soudha



Jama Masjid



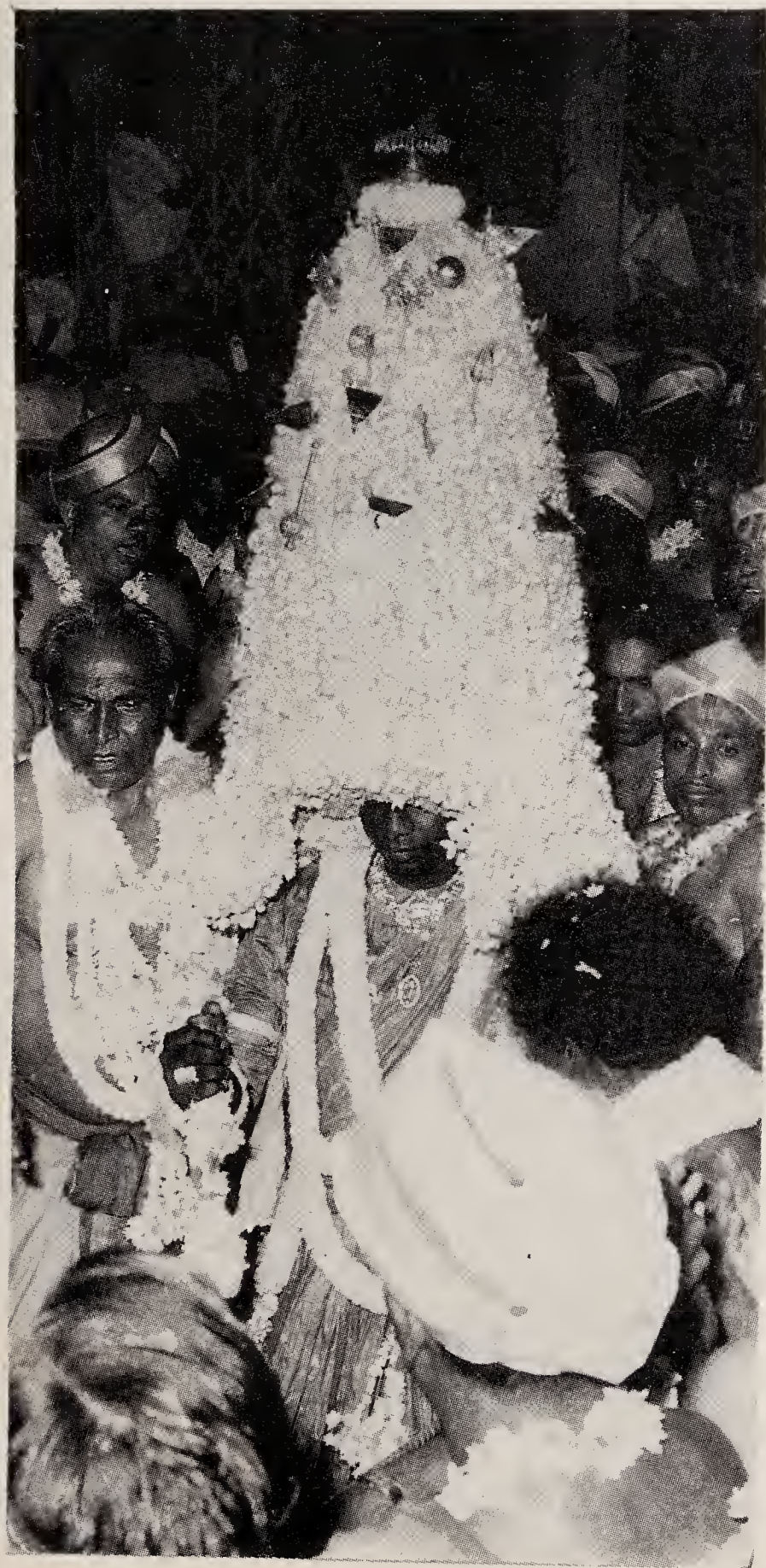
Glass House, Lal Bagh



St. Mary's Church



The Central College



Karaga, a unique festival



Someshwara Temple at Ulsoor

Turkey, Mauritius and Afghanistan were laid under contribution. Originally this garden covered an area of 45 acres; now the garden occupies 240 acres. Among the treasures of this garden are plants brought from countries like China, Australia, Sri Lanka, Brazil, America, the West Indies and Indonesia. If you enter Lal Bagh through the southern gate (also known as the Siddarpur Gate) and climb up to the tower on the rocks, you will be walking on rocks some 280,000,000 years old. Near the northern entrance there is a beautiful flower clock, and at a little distance, the equestrian statue of Chamaraja Wodeyar, a ruler of Mysore. One of the four towers erected by Kempe Gowda stands on a hillock close by. Gorgeous flower shows are organized by the Horticultural Department in the Glass House which is modelled on the Crystal Palace in London. Albert Victor, the Prince of Wales, laid the foundation stone in 1889. The Glass House, standing in sylvan surroundings, was completed in 1890. A number of private nurseries have come up around the Lal Bagh. At the western entrance (from the Basavanagudi

side) a bust of Jnanpith Award winner and great poet, K.V. Puttappa, was installed recently. He was a great lover of Nature. Above the entrance is inscribed (in Kannada) the exhortation to the visitor (in Dr. Puttappa's words) : "Enter with folded hands; this is 'sasyakashi' (the holy of holies in the world of plants)." The Rose Garden in Lal Bagh leaves the visitor spellbound.

The Cubbon Park, too, was once the pride of Bangalore. It is situated right in the heart of the city; a number of important offices like those of the High Court, Karnataka State Life Insurance Department and the Seshadri Memorial Public Library are located within the park, and others like the Museum and the Visvesvaraya Museum are also located in the park or on its edges. And right opposite is the Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the State government. Attempts have been made to control the traffic flowing through the park, but the price has to be paid still for the number of roads criss-crossing the park. Yet it is a lovely park; and fortunately, you have to move only a few a yards from the roads to shut out the traffic.

In an area of about 310 acres, clusters of trees offer soothing shade, and there are rocks on which you can settle down for an enjoyable solitude, so near the busy traffic and yet so blissfully far away.

As has been mentioned, several public-sector units and private institutions have maintained beautiful gardens. The Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Telephone Industries, Carlton House and a score of other establishments have evinced deep interest in maintaining gardens. At the annual flower show some of these units and establishments bag prizes. Small gardens are maintained by the City Corporation, banks and other institutions in different parts of the city.

A fascinating musical fountain was recently inaugurated in Bangalore. A gift from the Railways, it costs about a crore rupees. The site measuring 17.4 acres, is the old LRDE ground, near the Raj Bhavan. The fountain is designed to produce music — patriotic songs — accompanied by visuals of song sequences on a screen. A cluster of

more than forty fountains throws up waters of many colours, and seems to sway and dance. The cluster produces a riot of vibrant colours. The fountain has over thirty combinations of patterns. It has about a thousand nozzles with the water-flow and the light being controlled by a microprocessor having 48 channels. A beautiful garden is to come up around this, and when that is completed, it will be a rare and bewitching sight.

YET OTHER DELIGHTS

The gardens and the other lovely sights so far mentioned do not exhaust the joys of Bangalore. This is a centre of educational institutions at all levels, from kindergarten and primary schools to post-graduate university departments and advanced research seats.

Bangalore University is one of the biggest universities in India. There were so many educational institutions which needed the academic control of a university in and around Bangalore that this University was carved out of the old Mysore University in 1964.

(Incidentally, Mysore University, established in 1916, was the first university to be established in a State ruled by an Indian prince.) It has expanded so fast that already suggestions are being made that its burden should somehow be lightened. At the time of its establishment the University had 32 institutions affiliated to it; there were 590 students in its post-graduate department, and 16,000 students in the affiliated colleges. The university now runs 32 post-graduate departments with 3,379 post-graduate students; the total number of students coming under the academic control of the university is more than a lakh and a half. It has two campuses: the Jnana Bharati Campus, where the offices of the University and most of the post-graduate departments are located, is at a distance of 10 km from the city, on the Bangalore-Mysore road. The famous Central College, from which Rajaji and Sir M. Visvesvaraya graduated, is part of the City Campus. It was in Central College that Sir C.V. Raman first explained the fruits of his research which subsequently brought him the Nobel Prize. The hall in which the talk was delivered is now known

as the Raman Hall. The Visvesvaraya Engineering College also is part of the City Campus. The college, more than a hundred years old, now houses a few post-graduate departments.

In recent years there has been a spurt in schools and colleges, and the city is dotted with educational institutions. Some educational complexes run a number of institutions from kindergarten schools and primary schools to engineering colleges and law colleges; a few run post-graduate courses.

The Indian Institute of Science, often referred to as the Tata Institute, is one of the most prestigious centres of scientific research in India. It stands on the edge of Malleswaram, one of the earliest localities of the city. J. N. Tata, a man who combined vision with practical approach, saw the need for an institution devoted to advanced studies and research. The Maharaja of Mysore gifted a 372-acre plot and made a donation of five lakh rupees. The patriotic and munificent Tata contributed more than thirty lakh rupees. The Institute which came into existence in 1911 has achieved international fame. C.V. Raman,

the Nobel laureate, was its Director for more than fifteen years (1933-48). It started with just two departments — those of Electrical Engineering and Applied Chemistry. Now students can work for their doctorate in twelve faculties. About 700 students are engaged in research, and about 130 students obtain their doctorates every year. The Institute receives more than two thousand periodicals and the library contains more than three lakh volumes.

After he left the Tata Institute, Sir C.V. Raman started his own institute, the Raman Institute, which is not very far from the Indian Institute of Science. Raman financed the construction and the equipment of his Institute, refusing private donations.

The Jawaharlal Planetarium stands on T. Chowdaiah Road, near the Vidhana Soudha. The octagonal structure is striking and beautiful to behold, and anyone who steps into it steps into a world of wonders and illumination. It is specially meant to enlighten children; but it must be said that a visit to the planetarium is a memorable experience even to adults.

The theatre inside reproduces the motions of celestial bodies, and the show is accompanied by a commentary in simple language. Another institute devoted to scientific research is the Jawaharlal Centre for Advanced Scientific Research. There are several other institutions where research is making progress, as, for example, the National Aeronautical Laboratory.

An institute which has won all-India recognition is the Institute for Social and Economic Change. Founded (1972) by the renowned economist, Dr. V.K.R.V.Rao, the Institute is now located in the Jnana Bharathi campus of Bangalore University. Research here is people-oriented. It has a splendid library of 80,000 volumes. It also undertakes research and surveys on behalf of other parties. Another important centre of studies and research is the Indian Institute of Management, one of the few such centres in the country. It is located on the Bannarghatta Road, on the outskirts of the city. It offers a two-year post-graduate diploma course and a four-year fellowship course (equivalent to a doctorate). The Indian

Space Research Organization (ISRO) has four centres including the Bangalore centre in India; the Bangalore centre co-ordinates the work of all the centres. Bangalore also has institutes of technological and professional training like the Sri Krishnarajendra Technological Institute, and the Jayachamaraja Vocational Institute. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, located in Hesaraghatta, at a distance of 30 km from the city, is also engaged in fruitful research.

Among the research centres in Bangalore, the University of Agricultural Sciences must be mentioned. Ever since its inception (1965) this University has been engaged both in teaching and in research. This is a residential University. Research is being carried out in 29 departments. The University has pioneered projects to improve agricultural yield as well as the farmer's earnings, and control of animal pests. It is located in Hebbal.

The Bannarghatta National Park is located at a distance of 22 km from the city. It came into existence in 1974. Occupying an area of 104 sq. km it

offers sanctuary to lions, tigers and other wild life.

The Kanteerava Sports Stadium in Bangalore is the largest in the State. It has an area of 26 acres with facilities for outdoor games as well as coaching.

Bangalore has been chosen as the venue for the next National Games. Three splendid stadia which satisfy international standards are coming up in Koramangala Extension. Two thousand flats are being constructed in the Games Village here. The indoor stadium is to have a seating capacity of five thousand. The National Games will provide Bangalore with the infrastructure to host national and international sports and game events.

SOME PLACES OF WORSHIP

As has already been said, followers of different faiths have lived in Karnataka in peace and amity. People of one faith make prayers and offerings to deities and saints of another faith. Innumerable shrines and places of worship invite the devotees to prayer and worship.

Some of them are so compelling as to draw visitors from all walks of life and all faiths. The places of worship which are remarkable for their architecture or historical importance or for some other reason are numerous but only a few can be mentioned here.

The Someshwara temple in Ulsoor is probably the oldest shrine in Bangalore. It was constructed in the tenth or eleventh century. The Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple in Basavanagudi is another very old temple. It has been carved out of a cave. Such is the structure of the temple that on Makara Sankranti day (generally the 14th of January, but occasionally the 15th) the rays of the sun fall directly on the idol of Gangadharaswamy, the presiding deity. The catacombs contain 33 idols. The 'thrishoola' and the 'damaruga' associated with Lord Shiva have been carved out of granite, and are seen in the yard with 'suryapaana' and 'chandrapaana'. There is also a remarkable stone umbrella. The tower is in the Chalukya style. In the same extension is located the Basaveshwara temple, dedicated to the sacred bull

dear to Lord Ishwara; there is a huge idol of the sacred bull on a hillock. The Prasanna Venkataramanaswamy temple in the Fort area was built in 1695 during the regime of one of the most celebrated rulers of Mysore State, Chikkadevaraja Wodeyar. At a distance of about a hundred feet from the sanctum sanctorum stands a tall octagonal Garuda Kambha (Garuda Pillar). The temple is in the Dravidian style; the Rajagopuram (tower) was constructed in 1978. Yet another old temple with a distinctive style of architecture is the Kaadumalleshwara temple in Mallesvaram. It is said that Venkoji, Shivaji's brother, found a 'swayambhulingam' here, and constructed the temple and consecrated it in 1669. It is situated on what was probably once a hillock. The temple is also called 'Kaadumallikarjunaswamy temple'. The Dharmaraya temple in the heart of the city has already been referred to. The Subramanyaswamy temple (on the circumference of the Sajjan Rao Circle in Visvesvarapuram) was constructed by Sajjan Rao, a philanthropist to whom old Mysore in general, and Bangalore, owe much. Among temples

recently constructed are several which are spacious and beautiful. To mention only three, there is the Ragi Gudda Anjaneyaswami temple in Jayanagar, which attracts large numbers of devotees. The temple crowns a rock and is visible from a distance. A complex of ancillary constructions has come up in serene surroundings. The Veeranjaneya temple in Mahalakshmi Layout and the Rajeshwari temple in Rajajinagar are worth a visit. A huge construction which will be the largest such structure in Bangalore has been planned by the Hare Krishna organization in Rajajinagar. The construction is likely to be completed very soon. This, again, will be a complex, with Kalyanamandirs for marriages. In addition to lecture and conference halls, the construction will include an audio and video theatre and a spiritual boutique. The construction is expected to cost ten crore rupees. It is a vast structure which the visitor ought not to miss. The Ramakrishna Mutt (formerly known as Sri Ramakrishna Ashram) provides to the visitor one of the most serene spots in Bangalore. The Mutt is situated in Basavanagudi. The founding of the Ashram had been discussed when

Swami Vivekananda visited the State in 1893, and it became a reality ten years later. The birthdays of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sharadamani Devi and Swami Vivekananda are celebrated in a meaningful manner. The Shankar Mutt is another temple with a distinctive style of architecture. It is a stone structure and comprises two storeys. The stone porch was added in 1981, but the main construction was completed in 1911. There are two shrines in the compound. The Sharada idol here is said to have been worshipped by the celebrated Sri Vidyaranya, the founder of the Vijayanagar Empire. The idol was later brought to the Shringeri Sri Shanakaracharya Mutt; the Shankar Mutt in Bangalore was a gift of the Shringeri Mutt to Bangalore, and the idol was installed here.

The Mahabodhi Society is set in a spacious compound in Gandhinagar. It is an imposing structure, with a huge prayer and meeting-hall. A huge addition to the existing building is coming up.

During the days of the British, a number of churches came up in

Bangalore; that means that some of them are quite old and represent the architecture of the times. Some of them are stately buildings.

St. Mary's Basilica is the oldest church in the city. The present building was completed in 1872. It is a Gothic structure with an interior that is fascinating. St. Andrew's Church on Cubbon Road was consecrated in 1867. Battlemented parapets and steepled turrets, and slabs painted white to contrast with the red colour of the building make this a delight to behold. St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral is on St. John's Road in the Civil Area. It is a granite structure and has an unusual appearance. St. Patrick's Church stands on Field Marshal Cariappa Road. Its tall twin belfries catch the eye. St. Holy Trinity Church is at the end of Mahatma Gandhi Road. Its wood panellings and stained-glass windows attract a number of visitors. St. Joseph's Church stands on the circumference of Briand Circle. Life-size statues of St. Joseph, Jesus Christ and Mary can be seen in an underground vault. Hudson Memorial Church at the end of

Narasimharaja Road looks like a medieval church. St. Mark's Cathedral in the Civil Area is said to have been modelled on St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Almost all these churches are more than a hundred years old.

The Sangeen Jamia Masjid, now known as Jumma Masjid, is the oldest mosque in the Cantonment area. It is a brick-in-mortar structure. The materials, including the marble polished pillars, are said to have been brought from Tippu Sultan's palace in Srirangapattanam, which had been razed to the ground after his defeat and death (1799). The most impressive mosque in Bangalore is the huge Jamia Masjid near the Krishnarajendra Market. The domes and the minarets are eye-catching. The workmanship is exquisite. 5,000 devotees can offer prayer at a time here. The Ibrahim Saheb Masjid is another imposing structure which can accommodate a thousand devotees at a time.

Two buildings which are not masjids merit mention. Both are in the Islamic style. One is the huge Central Muslim Association Building on Arcot

Srinivasachar Street, at some distance from the K.R. Market. Another is Tippu Sultan's Palace in the Fort Area, which is of historical interest. The building was completed in 1701; the fort then surrounded the palace but has disappeared now. The greater part of the original structure seems to have disappeared, too; unfortunately, until recently, the maintenance of the palace as a historical monument was neglected and it was used for a variety of purposes. For some years it housed a school.

Members of other faiths also have impressive shrines and places of worship. There is a Gurudwara off Ulsoor Lake. This is visited by large numbers of Sikhs in the city. It is a lovely two-storeyed building, built of brick. Opposite Lady Jahangir Kothari Memorial Hall, there is a Parsee Agiari (Fire Temple), where Parsees offer worship and prayers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Bangalore has always offered medical assistance of the highest order. Long before independence, in the days of the Maharajas, hospitals like the Victoria Hospital and the Minto Ophthalmic

Hospital and, later, the Vani Vilas Hospital for women and children, all run by the government, served the city well. St. Martha's Hospital, more than a century old, is one of the premier hospitals in Bangalore. Bowring Hospital in the Civil Area is another hospital of repute.

In recent decades the government has been striving to cope with the medical needs of a fast-expanding city which is getting more and more industrialized. The City Corporation, too, has set up hospitals. Private agencies have brought some relief to the public who have to seek help in overcrowded government hospitals. There are also hospitals which specialize in the treatment of certain types of diseases.

Special mention must be made of certain medical centres. The Central Leprosarium (on Magadi Road), the Shanta Bai Deva Rao Shivaram Sanatorium and the Bangalore Dental College Hospital offer expert treatment for certain specific complaints. The Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology (an autonomous hospital) is very well equipped, and complicated heart surgery, including open-heart surgery and embedding a

pacemaker is performed here. It is one of the best hospitals of its kind, and patients come from all over South India. Students are trained in advanced treatment and surgery in this Institute. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosurgery (generally known as NIMHANS) is another institution which attracts patients from all over India. It is situated on the Bangalore-Hosur Road near the Bangalore Dairy, on a 12-acre plot of land. Brain diseases of all types are treated here; psychiatric treatment and counselling as well as rehabilitation of patients are attended to. There are several departments like those of Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Neurology, Neuro Surgery, Neuro Radiology and Neuro Pathology. Research also goes on in the Institute; it awards doctorates in several subjects. The Kidwai Institute of Ontology is another medical care centre with an all-India reputation. The Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital and Research Institute is said to be the only one of its kind. Located in Jayanagar, the hospital provides comprehensive treatment to victims.

The Jayachamarajendra Institute of Indian Medicine caters to those who prefer the Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine.

There are a number of hospitals and nursing homes run by private medical colleges or groups or individuals. Some of them are among the very best in Bangalore. A hospital with excellent equipment and providing excellent medical care is St. John's Medical College Hospital. While it is impossible to list all the very competent hospitals and nursing homes in the city, by way of giving some idea of the plenitude of Bangalore in the matter of medical care and assistance, mention may be made of Bangalore Nursing Home, Bangalore Hospital, Hospital Wockhardt, Bangalore Heart Hospital, Prabha Eye Clinic and Research Centre, Kalasa Eye Clinic and Nursing Home and Mallya Hospital and M.S. Ramaiah Hospital and Manipal Hospital.

There are a number of hospitals and organizations which provide ambulance services and there are also eye banks and blood banks (See Appendix).

SHOPPING IN BANGALORE

Shopping is a delight in Bangalore. There is practically nothing (unless it be something totally out of the way) that you cannot buy in this city. Most extensions have developed commercially so far that, except for articles like a car, one can buy anything without crossing the boundaries of his extension. Even textiles and jewellery of every quality are available.

Indigenous products and imported goods are available in Bangalore. The Karnataka State and public-sector units have opened shops and showrooms in different parts of the city; among these may be mentioned the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation, the Karnataka Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation, the Karnataka Leather Industries Development Corporation, the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation, the Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation, the Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation, the Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board, etc. Several

industrial units and business-houses outside the State also have their branches in Bangalore. The Andhra Handloom House, the Kerala Coir Products, Poompuhar, the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation, the Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, the Rajasthan Emporium and Handicrafts and the Rajasthan Marble Industries are a few instances of commercial and business houses outside the State seeking outlets in Bangalore.

Each extension has its own shopping centres, with quite a few shops stocked invitingly. Among the other attractions for the visitor shopping in Bangalore are the Avenue Road-Balepet-Chickpet-Doddapet area, Commercial Street and Mahatma Gandhi Road. The Avenue Road-Balepet-Chickpet-Doddapet area is part of the old city, and a very busy part of the city even now. It is particularly the home of splendid textiles and breathtaking jewellery. Commercial Street and Mahatma Gandhi Road represent the most sophisticated commerce, and are the delight of the fashionable men and women. Some of the best bookshops are also located in the areas mentioned above.

Karnataka is known for silk and sandal products and contributes about 85 percent of the silk produced in India. Ramanagaram, 50 km from Bangalore, has the biggest cocoon market in India. The Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation has showrooms on Field Marshal Cariappa Road, Kempe Gowda Road and in Chamarajapet. The Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation has a showroom at its office on Mahatma Gandhi Road; in addition, it has showrooms named 'Cauvery' in Cauvery Bhavan, Kempe Gowda Road, and in the Jayanagar Shopping Complex. Sandalwood and metal articles are sold in these showrooms.

Nature has blessed Karnataka most magnanimously with forest wealth and the rich variety of plants and trees has fostered an enviable range of handicrafts products. Also, apart from gold and silver articles, Karnataka makes attractive brass and bronze wares. Bidari art is unique to Karnataka; these metallic articles demand exceptional patience and skill, but the products are both pleasing and durable.

FOR A PLEASANT STAY

The first thing you will need is a comfortable accommodation. Every day there is a considerable floating population in the city, and it attracts a large number of visitors — both Indian tourists and foreign tourists. It is, therefore, advisable to reserve accommodation in advance. The pressure on the accommodation available is severe.

Fortunately, the visitor has a wide range to choose from. There are plush hotels for those who seek extra comfort and luxury, and hotels for those who do not choose to spend much money on accommodation and food, but desire comfort and cleanliness. In the big-budget class is Hotel Ashoka, located in the High Grounds which hardly needs an introduction. It offers luxury, range of dishes and glamour of the five-star kind. And then, there is Windsor Manor on Golf Course Road. It is a fairly recent but most welcome addition to Bangalore hotels, luxurious, delightful and a gastronome's delight. Oberoi on Mahatma Gandhi Road, West End Hotel on Race Course Road, Holiday

Inn on Sankey Road, Taj Residency on Mahatma Gandhi Road — any of these would meet the requirements of the visitor who seeks five-star comfort and service.

For the visitor who decides on a moderate budget for accommodation, there are a number of hotels where he can stay comfortably. Some of these are: Woodlands Hotel, Cauvery Continental, Hotel Kanishka, Hotel Harsha, Hotel Janardhan, Hotel Geo, Janardhana Hotel, Gateway Hotel, Victoria Hotel, The Atria, Ramanashree Comforts, Hotel Ivory Tower and Hotel Ajantha, Hotel Ashraya International and Hotel Tourist.

The crowds in hotels and their composition bear testimony to the change that has come about in the social values and habits of Bangaloreans in about three decades. In the last five years or so, a number of small hotels have appeared in different parts of the city, almost in every extension. Most of them cannot even provide seats, but they offer tasty food. So, one can see fashionable young men and women, often leaning against

a two-wheeler, eating and chatting and evidently enjoying themselves. Bangalore, they say, never sleeps. Even in the late hours of the night roadside eateries cater to the nocturnal roamers and early birds.

Apart from these centres of gastronomical delight there are a number of hotels and restaurants which cater to visitors with more fastidious tastes. There are so many of these that it is impossible to enumerate all of them. There is, for example, the Mavalli Tiffin Rooms on Lal Bagh Road. Those settled abroad, when paying a visit to the city, include MTR among the musts. It is as well-known for the irresistible taste of its dishes as for its cleanliness. It has set for itself high standards of cleanliness and has adhered to them for over half a century. While any preparation at MTR is the gourmet's delight, one should pay a second visit, if necessary, to taste the *chandrahara* (a sweet dish), the *vada* and the *masala dosa*. Vidyarthi Bhavan, in Gandhi Bazaar (Basavanagudi) is a household name for *masala dosa*. Janata Hotel, near the Minerva Circle, is also immensely popular for its *dosa* and *idli*.

Many of the hotels listed in an earlier paragraph, like Hotel Chalukya and Janardhana Hotel also offer a variety of excellent preparations.

With visitors and tourists pouring into the city, Bangalore has grown international in its cuisine. Naturally, delicacies from other parts of India have made a triumphant entry. There are scores of restaurants which serve north Indian, Maharashtrian and Gujarathi meals, etc. But the conquest of Bangalore cuisine has extended beyond India. Most of the luxury hotels provide western type of food. Those who fancy food of the Far East have a wide choice of hotels and restaurants — Mandarin Room, Jade Garden, the Rice Bowl, Hong Kong Restaurant, Shangrilla, Taipan, Chinese Hut, China Garden, Szechwan Court, Chungwah Restaurant, Koshy's Restaurant and Jewel Box, Noodles, Paradise Island, the Orient and Memories of China, among them. Sana's Arabian Food is appropriately named. The Banjara on Kumara Kripa Road provides Continental and Chinese dishes; the Gateway Hotel's Peacock Garden takes you in a time machine back to the days of the

Moghuls; the Gaurav Restaurant in Jayanagar combines pleasant music with delicious dishes. Those whose thoughts turn to cocktails also have a wide range to choose from — the Royal Derby (Windsor Manor), Time and Again (Brigade Road), Coconut Grove Bar (The Crazy Horse Bar), Jockey Club (Taj Residency), Sundowner (Holiday Inn) and Polo Club (The Oberoi), for example.

DESTINATION BANGALORE

Beautiful Bangalore beckons the home tourist and the foreign tourist. An advantage in coming to Bangalore is that the visitor can make the city his headquarters and conveniently visit a number of places of historical interest, treasure-houses of art, spots of nature's loveliness and places of pilgrimage. The State Tourist Corporation arranges tours; there are also private service agencies which take the visitor on conducted tours, or provide cars and vans on hire, or, if he so prefers, the visitor can obtain information from the Department of Tourism and draw up his own itinerary.

Bangalore is easy to reach. There

are direct trains to Bangalore from almost all the important cities of the country — Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram and Nagpur among them. The Madras Passenger, the Madras Express, the Tiruchi/Madura Express, the Madras Mail, the Brindavan Express, the Shatabdi Express, the Howrah Express, the Guwahati Express, the Dharmavaram Passenger, the Hyderabad Express, the Udyan Express, the Karnataka Express, the Kanyakumari Express, the Rajdhani Express, the Rajkot-Cochin Express, the Trivandrum-Gandhidam Express, the Tirupathi Express, the Bangalore-Quilon Express, the Bombay-Trivandrum Express, the Salem Passenger and the Virddhachalam Fast Express and several other trains make it easy to reach Bangalore from any part of the country. (A few of these trains run only on specified days in the week.) Airlines connect Bangalore with every important city in India—Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Calcutta, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Panaji, Pune, etc. Indian Airlines and Air India have their offices in Bangalore. British Airways, Air France, Swiss Air,

Singapore Airlines, Pakistan International Airlines, Lufthansa, KLM, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways Corporation, Qantas, Cathay Pacific and North East Airlines — all have offices in the city. Several private airlines like Modiluft, Jet Airways, Damania, Sahara India Airlines and East West Airlines also operate from Bangalore. Road transport is easy; there are several interstate services like the Andhra Pradesh Transport Service, the Maharashtra Transport Service, the Kerala Transport Service and the Tamil Nadu Transport Service which connect Bangalore with important centres in adjoining States. An advantage is that Karnataka State Transport Service also runs buses to several cities in adjoining States. Further, most of these buses complete the journey in one night, so that the visitor can launch upon the pleasures of the visit straightway in the morning. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has a number of buses, plying both during the day and at night, touching almost every district headquarters and most of the other towns and cities in the State as well as spots of tourist interest. Reaching

Bangalore and leaving it, reluctantly, though, are no problem.

Apart from excellent accommodation and irresistible cuisine, Bangalore has much to offer, to make a stay here quite pleasant. The Reserve Bank of India has a branch here. All the nationalized banks and all the other leading commercial banks have branches. So it is not difficult to encash traveller's cheques. STD and FAX facilities are available at a number of hotels. All the leading newspapers and periodicals are available in the stalls. There is a vigorous Kannada press; quite a few bring out Bangalore city edition — *Prajavani*, *Kannada Prabha*, *Udayavani* and *Samyukta Karnataka*. The English daily *Deccan Herald* originates here. Other English dailies which bring out Bangalore editions and/or are readily available are *The Hindu*, *The Indian Express* and *The Times of India*. There is a flourishing Urdu Press, and Urdu dailies are brought out. Hindi newspapers and periodicals are easy to buy. And it is not difficult to buy Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam newspapers and periodicals.

Transport is likely to pose a problem. National Highway No.4 (Madras-Bombay) and No.2 (Varanasi-Kanyakumari) pass through the city. Of course, the visitor who has his own vehicle is lucky, except that some of the roads are not as good as they should be, and traffic jams, unknown even a couple of years ago, have begun to earn the curse of people. But the visitor who is not so lucky will experience the pressures of a fast-growing city. Public transport is the monopoly of the Bangalore Transport Service. The visitor may find that he cannot always rely upon this service. And then there are the three-wheeled rickshaws. They certainly alleviate, at least to some extent, the hardships of the public. But, with the rise in the prices of petrol and diesel, the fares of the rickshaws also have been steadily rising. Autorickshaw-drivers are generally helpful and friendly, but it would be well not to be too optimistic; one might as well ensure that the meter is working. And a stranger to the city would do well to find out, at the hotel where he is staying or from any other source, the shortest route to his destination and the

probable autorickshaw fare. Taxis are available, too, and usually the better-class hotels will have no difficulty in summoning a taxi.

As has already been said, the Karnataka Tourist Corporation has organized tours; the visitor might well take advantage of these conducted tours. There are also private tourist agencies which organize similar trips. Some of them are very efficient, have comfortable transport facilities, and make excellent arrangements for the passengers' stay overnight. But it would be well to ensure that one has contacted one of the reliable agencies.

So, Bangalore *chalo* — Bangalore, the city of gardens, Bangalore, where the past holds a mirror to the present, where travelling down a lane one might muse upon the ways and lessons of history, Bangalore, the electronic capital of India, pointing the way to the future, Bangalore of the delectable climate and cuisine and, above all, Bangalore of the friendly Bangaloreans.

APPENDIX TO SECTION ON HOSPITALS

a) Ambulance

- 1) Indian Red Cross Society
- 2) St. John's Ambulance Association
- 3) City Corporation Civil Area
- 4) City Corporation City Area
- 5) Trucros Hospital
- 6) Government Ambulance
- 7) NIMHANS
- 8) Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital
- 9) Hospital of Orthopaedics
- 10) Bowring Hospital
- 11) Victoria Hospital
- 12) St. Philomena's Hospital
- 13) St. Martha's Hospital
- 14) Mallya's Hospital
- 15) Bangalore Hospital
- 16) Ramakrishna Nursing Home
- 17) K. C. General Hospital
- 18) Vanivilas Hospital

- 19) Yellamma Dasappa Hospital
- 20) Asha Nursing Home
- 21) Travel House (Ambulance Service)
- 22) Rashtrothana Parishat

b) Blood Banks

- 1) Bangalore Medical Store
- 2) Karnataka Red Cross Blood Bank
- 3) Lions' Blood Bank
- 4) Rotary T.T.K Blood Bank
- 5) Rastrothana Blood Bank



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